

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00285 01 OF 02 150003Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

TRSE-00 CU-04 DRC-01 /157 W
----- 033418

R 241530Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1696

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOVBN NS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ARRON ON INDEPENDENCE AND GOS POLICY

1. PRIME MINISTER ARRON MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS ON INDEPENDENCE, GOS FOREIGN POLICY, AND GOS POLICY ON PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DURING CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL GENERAL ON JUNE 12.

2. INDEPENDENCE - ARRON BELIEVED THE VHP POLICY CHANGE ON INDEPENDENCE (PARAMARIBO 280) WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS GOVERNMENT'S HAND IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE GON. HOWEVER, HE FORESAW FEW DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING THE "GUARANTEES" WHICH THE VHP HAS DEMANDED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DUTCH HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED THEMSELVES IN THE HAGUE PROTOCOL (PARAMARIBO 252) TO SIGN A TREATY WITH SURINAM REGARDING ASSISTANCE. ON "HUMAN RIGHTS" (GUARANTEES ON DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES) HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO INCLUDE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00285 01 OF 02 150003Z

IN A NEW SURINAM CONSTITUTION WHATEVER SAFEGUARDS THE VHP

OPPOSITION MIGHT REQUEST. REGARDING MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP, ARRON SEEMED UNCONCERNED THAT A SERIOUS PROBLEM WOULD ARISE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION COULD NOT BE ATTAINED UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE FOR COMPLEX TECHNICAL REASONS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CONSTITUTIONALITY, SINCE SURINAMERS WERE NETHERLANDS CITIZENS UNTIL THE MOMENT OF INDEPENDENCE. WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE, THERE WAS A GENERAL GON COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE. A GON MILITARY GROUP WOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY HE SAID TO BEGIN TO ADVISE THE GOSHON DEFENSE MATTERS. ARRON SAID SURINAM NEEDED AND COULD AFFORD ONLY A SMALL FORCE, BUT DID NEED SOME KIND OF DEFENSE CAPABILITY. WHILE HE ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEMS WITH BRAAIL OR FRENCH GUIANA, "WE NEVER KNOW WHAT GUYANA MIGHT DO."

3. ASKED ABOUT RECURRING RUMORS THAT SEGMENTS (REPORTEDLY THE PS) OF THE NPK COALITION WERE PRESSING FOR AN INDEPENDENCE DATE OF JULY 1, 1975, IN ORDER TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF EMANCIPATION, ARRON REPLIED IT WOULD BE "IMPOSSIBLE" TO MAKE SUCH A DEADLINE. HE ESTIMATED INDEPENDENCE WOULD OCCUR IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1975.

4. PRIVATE INVESTMENT - COMMENTING ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S JOINT VENTURE POLICY, ARRON INDICATED THAT THE GOS WOULD SET AS A GOAL PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN COMPANIES IN WHICH IT ACQUIRED JOINT OWNERSHIP. AS TO HOW THIS WOULD OPERATE IN THE CASE OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, HE ADMITTED THAT THIS WOULD INDEED BE DIFFICULT. "EVEN IF THE SURALCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE TO BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SURINAMERS, WE KNOW THAT KEY DECISIONS WOULD STILL BE MADE IN PITTSBURGH." HE SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT THE 1954 BROKOPONDO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOS AND ALCOA WOULD BE RESPECTED BY THE GOS, AS FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD RUIN INVESTOR CONFIDENCE AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN THE SOLIDITY OF GOS AGREEMENTS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT "WE DEFINITELY WILL NOT NATIONALIZE SURALCO."

5. FOREIGN POLICY - ASKED TO EXPAND ON HIS BRIEF STATEMENT IN THE FEBRUARY 15 GOVERNMENT POLICY DECLARATION, THAT POST-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00285 01 OF 02 150003Z

INDEPENDENCE SURINAM WOULD FOLLOW A "NEUTRALIST FOREIGN POLICY, ARRON SAID THAT SURINAM HAD VIRTUALLY NO EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AND WANTED TO MAKE NO COMMITMENTS UNTIL IT COULD FORM SOME INDEPENDENT JUDGMENTS. HE INDICATED THAT SURINAM WOULD APPLY TO ENTER THE UN AND OAS. IN ORDER TO LIMIT THE COSTS OF REPRESENTATION ABROAD, HE THOUGHT SURINAM WOULD MAINTAIN SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS ONLY IN THE NETHERLANDS, THE U.S., THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, TRINIDAD, BRAZIL, GUYANA

AND THE UN, AND WOULD ASK HOLLAND OR THE U.S. TO REPRESENT ITS INTERESTS ELSEWHERE.

6. REMINDED THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HABITUALLY ENGAGED ESPIONAGE AND SUBVERSION THROUGH THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS ABROAD, WHICH IN SURINAM'S CASE COULD OVERWHELM THE COUNTRY'S POORLY STAFFED AND EQUIPPED SECURITY SERVICE, ARRON SEEMED TO BE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP IT IN MIND.

7. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNIONS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WHOSE SALARIES ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 78 PERCENT OF THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET, ARE BEGINNING TO AGITATE STRONGLY FOR ANOTHER ROUND BY WAGE INCREASES AFTER THE RAISE GRANTED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR. THE GOS HAS INDICATED IT WOULD SATISFY THESE DEMANDS ALTHOUGH THE BUDGET IS ALREADY IN DEFICIT. ARRON SAID THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HOLD THE LINE, AT LEAST THIS TIME AROUND. THE INCREASES HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY PROMISED BY THE NPK COALITION DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR. PRIVATE SECTOR SALARIES HAD ALREADY FAR OUTSTRIPPED GOVERNMENT SALARIES AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOSING MANY OF THE BEST CIVIL SERVANTS. FINALLY, HE SAID, SALARIES OF THE BOTTOM CATEGORY OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS WERE INTOLERABLY LOW. WHERE THE MONEY WAS TO COME FROM, HOWEVER, ARRON DID NOT KNOW. "WE CAN'T RAISE THE TAX RATE ANY FURTHER." THE MAXIMUM TAX RATE IS 39.6 PERCENT.

8. VISIT TO THE U.S. - THE CONSUL GENERAL AGAIN RENEWED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO ARRON TO VISIT THE U.S. ON A DEPARTMENT GRANT, WHICH HAD FIRST BEEN EXTENDED IN OCTOBER 1972, WHEN HE WAS STILL AN OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIAN. ARROW SAID HE VERY MUCH WANTED TO DO SO AND DEFINITELY INTENDED TO MAKE THE VISIT BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARAMA 00285 01 OF 02 150003Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00285 02 OF 02 150051Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

TRSE-00 CU-04 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 034021

R 141530Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1697

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ARRON ON INDEPENDENCE AND GOS POLICY

9. COMMENT - ARRON MAY HAVE BEEN TOO OPTIMISTIC WITH REGARD TO THE EASE WITH WHICH SATISFACTORY AGREEMENTS WOULD BE REACHED WITH THE GON AND REASSURING THE VHP ON THE CONDITIONS OF INDEPENDENCE. THE ENTIRE THRUST OF THE GON POSITION ON CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION, AS THE POST SEES IT, IS TO STEM THE FLOW OF MIGRATION FROM SURINAM TO HOLLAND AND TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL REPATRIATION OF SURINAMERS RESIDING IN HOLLAND (ESTIMATED AT 80,000). ARRON HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT, DUE TO THE LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SURINAM, A LARGE NUMBER OF SURINAMER RETURNEES FROM HOLLAND WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES. ALSO, THE GOS WILL WANT TO ENSURE CONTINUED EASY AND CHEAP ACCESS FOR SURINAMERS TO VISIT THE LARGE SURINAM COLONY IN HOLLAND.

10. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE VHP WILL BE SATISFIED WITH "HUMAN RIGHTS" GUARANTEED ONLY IN THE SURINAM CONSTITUTION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00285 02 OF 02 150051Z

THE VHP HAS ALWAYS INSISTED THAT SUCH RIGHTS BE GUARANTEED FROM OUTSIDE, BY THE GON, SINCE IT FEARS THAT A CREOLE-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT COULD CHANGE OR OVERRIDE ANY CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES WITHOUT SUCH GUARANTEES. IT SEEMS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT THE GON WILL AGREE TO SUCH A ROLE.

11. GOS POLICY ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS STILL A VAGUE, POORLY DEFINED ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A MORE "PROGRESSIVE" POSITION THAN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. EXCEPT FOR

THE PNR, THE NPK-COALITION IS AVERSE TO THE IDEA OF NATION-ALIZATION AND EVEN THE PNR'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE SEEMS INCREASINGLY TO BE DICTATED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF PRAGMATISM RATHER THAN IDEOLOGY.

12. THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT SALARIES IS ONE WHICH HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAUNT SURINAM GOVERNMENTS. THE NPK RECEIVED IMPORTANT SUPPORT FROM THE LARGEST AND MOST MILITANT OF THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE UNIONS DURING THE ELECTION BUT THESE UNIONS CAN EASILY BECOME ADVERSARIES, DANGEROUS ONES AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE SERIOUS UNREST AND DISTURBANCES EARLY LAST YEAR. THE POLICE FORCES WHICH STOOD LOYALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING LAST YEAR'S TROUBLES, IS NOW ALSO AFFECTED BY SALARY DISCONTENT. THE GOS WILL PROBABLY TRY TO GET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM HOLLAND TO FUND ONE MORE ROUND OF WAGE INCREASES.

13. ARRON SEEMED MORE SELF CONFIDENT AND ASSURED THAN IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS, CONFIRMING REPORTS THAT HIS SUCCESS AT THE HAGUE SUMMIT HAS GIVEN HIM INCREASED STATURE IN HIS OWN AND IN THE NPK'S OPINION. JOHNSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, WAGE RATES, GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, OPPOSITION PART IES, IMMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARAMA00285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0789
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740644/aaaablph.tel
Line Count: 244
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER ARRON ON INDEPENDENCE AND GOS POLICY
TAGS: PGOV, NS, US, NL, (ARRON, HENK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005